

First, let us tone down our rhetoric and listen to each other as well as talk.

Second, let us respect each others concerns over tax cuts, Medicare, education, and other items as valid.

And finally, let us not miss this historic opportunity to reach a compromise that will balance our budget in a fair and equitable way.

Americans are counting on us.

#### WE NEED A BALANCED BUDGET NOW

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, we are in the middle of the most important debate in decades—do we balance the budget or do we allow the out of control spending to continue. If we do not balance the budget now, it will never happen.

We have worked for months on developing a plan that would protect future generations and the country's fiscal solvency. Our balanced budget offers the American people a dividend.

Just a month ago, President Clinton agreed to work with us to achieve a balanced budget using CBO numbers. However, once again the President has back peddled playing politics as usual. He is more concerned with power and spending taxpayer money than he is about our children's future. We have offered a reasonable, responsible balanced budget which benefits the American people.

President Clinton, it is time for to put the political games aside and start working on behalf of the American people.

#### LET US AGREE ON A BALANCED BUDGET

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a tragically historic time, because the Republicans for the first time in history have shut down the United States Government two times in 1 year. There are faces to this shutdown. As I listen to the cries in my district in Houston, various Federal offices that serve the American people shut down, doors closed, but yet there are also faces behind those who work in those offices, with families on the brink of Christmas and in the midst of Hanukkah.

All Americans are suffering. And then I might ask about the mother who lives in the Houston area, unemployed, without any support systems, an 8-month-old who has respiratory problems, a 5-year-old with heart problems, and an 8-year-old with a brain tumor. That mother needs Medicaid, yet on the backs of those children and that mother, this Republican Congress wants to balance the budget.

Oh, we all want to balance the budget. The Democrats have stood their ground on that. The Democratic helped craft and pass a resolution that allowed this Government to remain open, signed on November 19, that said we would balance the budget, protecting Medicaid, education, Medicare, agriculture, national defense, and the veterans.

Where are the Republican members who would come to the table to pass a clean continuing resolution. This is a season to be joyous. This is a season to stand for the American people. Let us get a budget that we can all agree with.

#### CEO'S CALL FOR END TO GRIDLOCK

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when the President failed again to offer a balanced budget, he proved once more that old Democrats do not morph into new Democrats. In fact, it is clear that old Democrats do not even die, they just fake away. They fake at balancing the budget, they fake at negotiations, they fake at ending welfare as we know it, and they fake at inhaling.

Well, today the CEO's across America have had enough. They have taken out this full page ad in the Washington Post saying end the gridlock, Mr. President. These are folks from Ford, General Motors, Circuit City, Toys-R-Us. What they are asking the President to do is what the Congress has already done: Use realistic numbers and the CBO scoring to balance the budget in 7 years. And I would say if the President will come to the negotiating table and do what he promised to do 3 weeks ago, then we can resolve this.

I, for one Member of Congress, agree with the CEO's and the major employers across the Nation. I am going to sign my name to this. I invite my fellow Republicans to do the same, and I invite my fellow Democrats. If you agree with this, please put your name on this in front of the American people.

#### CEO'S DEMAND MORE CORPORATE WELFARE

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, OK, everybody, watch who signs up. Watch who signs up, because we now know what the issue is. These are the CEO's demanding that they have more corporate welfare and they want us to kill Medicare. They want us to kill the things that mean a lot to the middle class so they can continue on with their golden parachutes, the great tax cut that they have been promised, and they want their Christmas to come.

Well, I am here not representing the CEO's, the fat cats of America. I am

here representing the average American. Never have we had a Congress so stupid that it closed the Government down once, but twice. These Republicans do not learn. But how pleased I am they smoked out their supporters.

I hope you guys all sign up, back the CEO's of America. Be proud you are for corporate welfare. I am proud I am not. I am for Medicare, I am for Medicaid, I am for student loans, and I am for standing up for what built this country.

#### LAST CHANCE FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, let me just suggest to the gentlewoman from Colorado that I am for those same things. I am for protecting Medicare, for protecting education, I am for protecting Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last best chance perhaps that we will have to balance this budget. We have a window of opportunity right how to do the right thing for the American people.

The Republican majority has a plan. I do not see one coming from the President. He says he wants to balance the budget, to produce a plan, yet he has not produced a plan. He has not even shown us his plan. Instead of working with the Republican majority to find some common ground, he continues to mislead America with imaginary spending cuts on Medicare, Medicaid, education, and so forth.

The President's philosophy seems to be to scare the children, scare the poor, scare the veterans, and scare the seniors. As 1995 comes to an end, the American people need to know that the only thing standing between them and a balanced budget, lower taxes, lower interest rates, and more jobs, is the President, President Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, the majority stands ready to work with the President. It is time for him to provide leadership and help us end the days of spend now, and worry later.

#### PRESENT A RESPONSIBLE BALANCED BUDGET

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, last time the Republicans shut down the Government because the Speaker was unhappy with his seat on Air Force One.

Now, the Republicans have shut down the Government because the President will not accept a budget agreement that would devastate health care for the elderly and the poor while giving a huge tax break to the rich.

The Republicans are holding the Government hostage in order to force their

budget priorities on this country. When are Republicans going to realize that the majority of Americans reject their mean-spirited budget proposal?

A balanced budget should not come at the expense of the elderly. Let's balance the budget by giving less for defense and ending sweetheart deals to special interest groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to honor the commitment you made last month with the President and give us a responsible balanced budget that protects children and education and stop this mean-spirited attack on seniors.

#### PASS BALANCED BUDGET NOW

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday by a vote of 351 to 40, with 133 Democrats joining a unanimous vote on the part of the majority, we passed a resolution reaffirming our commitment to a balanced budget in 7 years using honest numbers.

Well, today we are going to have the second part of the story here. We are going to bring up the President's budget for a vote. We are going to find out just how unanimous the support is among Republicans and Democrats to vote for the President's budget. It is time that we got the basic issues here, and that is do we really support a balanced budget in 7 years?

It has been 12,093 days since the President promised us a 5-year balanced budget. It is time for Republicans and Democrats who agree on saving this country for our children and our children's future to get together and make the President as relevant as he has been all through the 1995, which is irrelevant, and pass a balanced budget over his veto.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, all around Washington, we hear the sounds of the season. Not the holiday season—the budget season.

We hear the word furlough float through the air. Who gets furloughed if the Government keeps shutting down?

But the key question is not furlough—it is how low? How low will the Speaker stoop to satisfy special interest sponsors? How long will GINGRICH sink America's seniors into debt just to pay-off his own political debts?

With every shutdown, we hear the question: Who is essential? But the key question is not who is essential, but what is essential?

To Republicans, essential means the wealth of the upper-class rather than the health of the middle-class. To the GOP, essential means the priorities of powerful political patrons—rather than public programs that protect people.

You hear the GOP say they are making history. But you will not hear them discuss the history of the Reagan-Bush era—and the trillions of dollars of debt they racked up. Those Republicans busted the budget by shifting the tax burden to working families and cutting the safety-net for the most vulnerable.

Sound familiar? As we have all heard one Republican say, "there they go again."

#### USE HONEST NUMBERS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the stock and bond markets sent a unmistakable signal to Washington: Balance the budget. Congress, the House and the Senate, have passed a balanced budget, the first in decades. The President has vetoed it, claiming that it cuts Medicare spending. In fact, as Hillary Rodham Clinton testified on Capitol Hill very recently, the President's own proposal was to reduce the rate of growth in Medicare spending from around 12 percent to around 7 percent. The budget that was passed by this Congress increases Medicare spending more than 7 percent in every year.

The President of the United States is hiding behind this distortion, this lie, about Medicare, because he wants to avoid balancing the budget.

Yesterday this Congress sent him another message: Balance the budget using honest numbers. Do not cook the books. Do as you promised, standing right here; use the Congressional Budget office figures. The budget the President submitted is \$115 billion out of balance. Let us get to work. Let us do it for America's future, for our children, and for our grandchildren.

#### LET FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WORK

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at a press conference Speaker GINGRICH indicated that there were a great many House Republicans who objected to paying Federal employees for not working. Fair enough. Federal employees do not want to get paid for not working. They want to work. We ought not repeat a situation where we paid out \$750 million to Federal employees for not working. They should have been at work then, and they certainly should be at work now.

There are two things the Speaker could do to rectify the situation. One, we have legislation we are trying to get to the floor that would keep Federal employees on the job and reimburse them subsequently when appropriation became available.

The second thing to do is just what we did during the Reagan administra-

tion, the Bush administration, the Nixon administration and every administration prior. When we had a conflict between the executive and the legislative branches, you pass a clean continuing resolution at the lower of the House or Senate level. You keep the Government functioning. You do not hold Federal employees hostage. And that is what we are doing, and to do it at Christmastime is wrong. It is mean-spirited.

I was in a school yesterday and the principal and teachers came up and said, "You know, these children are not happy like they should be at Christmas time. Their parents are fighting, their parents do not know what the future holds, they are not buying Christmas presents." We have ruined their Christmas, and it is wrong.

□ 1030

#### REPUBLICAN PROMISE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, let me remind my colleagues of the fact there was an election in November 1994 when the American people decided to make a great change in this Congress. For the first time in 40 years they decided to put Republicans in charge of both Houses of Congress.

Over this past year we have kept our word to the American people. The central promise that we made to them is that we would balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. And all year we have done that by increasing the amount of money for Medicare, increasing the amount of money for Medicaid, increasing the amount of money for student loans.

Mr. Speaker, during the last shutdown of the Government, the President decided that he would finally agree with us; that we would balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. But over the last 29 days, the President has not kept his word. He has done nothing to further the commitment that he made to the American people that he would balance the budget in 7 years.

Now, the long and short of this is that we are going to keep our word to the American people. We are going to do what we promised we would do. It is time for the President to keep his promise.

#### THANKS TO SPEAKER GINGRICH WE ARE AT DAY NO. 4 OF SHUT- DOWN NO. 2

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, thanks to Speaker GINGRICH and the new majority, today is day No. 4 of Government shutdown No. 2. All in the last 2